(a) whether there is any project under consideration of the Union Government to link the Krishna-Godavri-Cauveri rivers;

(b) if so, the stage of the project; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) of the Government of India has prepared the prefeasibility reports of the following water transfer links to link the Godavari-Krishna-Cauvery rivers.

(I) The three links envisaged between the Godavari-Krishna are:

(i) Godavari (Polavaram)—Krishna (Vijayawada)

(ii) Godavari (Inchampalli)—Krishna (Nagarjuna Sagar)

(iii) Godavari (Inchampalli)—Krishna (Pulichintala)

(II) The three links envisaged between Krishna-Pennar are;

(i) Almatti-Pennar

(ii) Krishna (Nagarjuna Sagar—Pennar (Soma Sila)

(iii) Krishna (Sri Sailam)—Pennar (Proddatur)

(III) The link envisaged between Pennar-Cauvery is: Pennar (Soma Sila)–Cauvery (Grand Anicut).

Survey and investigation works for the preparation of the feasibility reports for Godavari (Polavaram)–Krishna (Vijaywada) link, Alamatti-Pennar link, Krishna (Nagarjuna Sagar)-Pennar (Soma Sila) link and Krishna (Sri Sailam)–Pennar (Proddatur) link have been taken up by NWDA.

Implementation of the above proposals will depend upon concurrence of the concerned State Governments and various other factors.

Technical and Vocational Institutions

4802. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more technical and vocational institutions in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) Presently, there is no proposal under consideration to set up more technical or vocational institutions in Assam.

SC/ST and Women Representatives on Cantonment Boards

4803. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Cantonment boards working in the country as on date;

(b) the number of SC/ST and women representatives therein, board-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to reserve seats for women in these boards; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) There are 62 Cantonment Boards in the country.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) and (d) The reservation policy for women representatives in local bodies as per 74th Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 has not been extended to Cantonment Boards. The Cantonments Act, 1924 and the existing rules do not provide for the reservation of women to Cantonment Boards. This matter is, however, under consideration of the Government in the context of the proposed amendments to the Cantonments Act.

STATEMENT

Details for Ward Reserved for SC/ST and the Names of the Members

Sl. No.	Name of the Cantonment	Reserved Ward No.	Name of the sitting Member
1	2	3	4
1	Ahmednagar	IV	Shri Bhingardive Sambhaji Ramdas
2.	Allahabad	I & III	(I) Shri Naresh Kumar (III) Shri Dinesh Kumar
3.	Ambala	II	Shri Dharminder
4.	Babina	VI	Shri Raja Ram
5.	Bareilly	VII	Shri O.M. Prakash
6.	Belgaum	VII	Dr. Dongare Madan Amarnath
7.	Danapur	VI	Shri Mahar Prasad
8.	Dehra Dun	VII	Shri Arun Kumar

1	2	3	4
9	Delhi	V	Shri Brahm Prakash
10	Ferozepur	I	Shri Joginder
11	Kasauli	IV	Shri Charan Dass
12	Lucknow	II	Shri Dulli Chand Arya
13	Ranikhet	IV	Shri Bhuwan Chandra Arya

Women Member Elected (Non SC/ST)

1. Agra I Smt Rajkumari.

Bypass on N.H. 37

4804. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has submitted a proposal to the Union Government for construction of a by-pass on National Highways No. 37 at the outskirt of the Guwahati University;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) There is no preposal for construction of a by-pass on National Highways No. 37 at the outskirt of the Guwahati University, which is pending in the Ministry.

U.S. Restrictions on Indian Professionals

4805. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US Government had imposed restrictions on hiring of Indian professionals in their country;

(b) if so, its effect on Indians desirous of going to the US for employment;

(c) whether the Government have taken-up the matter with the US; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) US Government regulations and restrictions on hiring of foreign professionals by US companies apply to professionals of all countries and are not specific to India. Over the last few years the US Government have tightened certain conditions for issuance of visas to business visitors in regard to the type of activities they may engage in, in the US. Certain conditions have also been placed on issuance of H-IB visas for short term employment of foreign professionals in the US. This has had a bearing on the employment of certain foreign professionals in the US, including those from India.

(c) While the regulation of employment of foreigners in a country is a matter entirely within its jurisdiction, Government continue to bring to the attention of the United States, at various levels, specific problems that professionals, businessmen and other visitors from India encounter in obtaining visas for travel to and employment in the US.

(d) The US Government has taken due note of our concern and have assured that efforts will continue to improve the efficiency of the visa process in India.

Reimbursement of Surgery Charges

4806. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether for certain types of surgery only, the Central Government has permitted the CGHS beneficiaries to have cartain types of surgery from certain private hospitals in the country and whether the amount spent by CGHS beneficiaries for this purpose is reimbursed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would permit all types of surgeries to be performed by these private hospitals on Central Government employees and reimburse the amount, as is done in the case of surgeries performed by the AIIMS;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) In addition to the Central or State Government hospitals (stands recognised), the private hospitals/disgnostic centres are being recognised citywise based on the physical facilities and disciplinewise expertise available. Citywise upper reimbursement limit is also fixed (package rate) for different procedures.

(b) List of hospitals/diagnostic centres recently recognised is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) The quality of service offered by the private institutions has to be of a certain standard for recognition under CGHS.

The reimbursement is as per the Government-approved citywise rates in these hospitals. If a beneficiary